



COMMUTER LINES

Volume 13, Number 2

2nd Quarter 2006

DOTD, Union Parish Chamber of Commerce host groundbreaking ceremony for Ouachita Bridge

DOTD and the Union Parish Chamber of Commerce hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on June 12 for the Ouachita Bridge at Sterlington.

This project, which is scheduled to be complete in about three years, will replace the 75-year-old movable bridge on La. 2 across the Ouachita River with a high-rise bridge. Vehicular traffic will no longer have to stop for marine traffic. At least seven thousand vehicles cross the bridge each day.

"The rebirth of this bridge will bring new life to the economies of Union and Ouachita parishes," said DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry. "It will also be more convenient and much safer than the old bridge."

While the old bridge had no shoulders, the new bridge will boast 10-foot shoulders and lanes two feet



Ceremony attendees officially mark the start of construction of the Ouachita Bridge at Sterlington.

wider than the original 10-foot lanes. Large trucks will have fewer problems crossing this bridge because of the expanded width, Bradberry added.

Stan Elkins, Chamber of Commerce president, served as master of ceremonies for the event, which took place just north of the existing La. 2 Bridge on Old Sterlington Road.

State Senators Robert Barham and Bob Kostelka, and State Representatives Hollis Downs, Kay Katz, Charles McDonald and Mike Walsworth also spoke at the ceremony. The Reverend Curt Auger of Paron Baptist Church provided the invocation. Following the ceremony, the Union Parish Chamber of Commerce hosted a reception at the Sterlington Town Hall.

Jensen Construction Co. is the contractor for the \$36.9 million project, and the DOTD project engineer is Marshall Hill.

In the spirit of process improvement, DOTD's public information office has decided to scale back the number of "Commuter Lines" printed each quarter. Employees at headquarters will no longer receive a paper copy of the newsletter. The newsletter will be accessible on the Web at www.dotd.louisiana.gov/press/nl_archive.asp. We will, however, continue to distribute paper copies to the district offices, so DOTD employees without access to a computer will be able to read the newsletter. This change will save the department approximately \$160 each quarter. Thank you for your feedback.

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BITS AND PIECES

JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY, SECRETARY

Secretary presents updates on state

Editor's note: The following is a presentation Secretary Bradberry made during his recent trip to the 2006 SASHTO conference in Georgia.

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to represent the great state of Louisiana, home of the Fighting Tigers of LSU, who humbled Alabama, Auburn, Mississippi and Florida in football in 2005 and will avenge the wrongs perpetrated by Tennessee and Georgia. Our men's basketball team went to the Final Four, knocking Duke all the way back to Durham along the way. Our women's team also reached the Final Four, where the Lady Blue Devils did what the men couldn't do – beat LSU. Yes, we all are proud of our teams, and sports are important to us in the South. A Saturday at the stadium, arena or ballpark – whether you're in Baton Rouge, Oxford, Gainesville or Tuscaloosa – is how we share a common set of values with several thousand of our closest friends.

So in that spirit of kinship, I want to update you on what is happening in Louisiana, post-Katrina and Rita.

Right now, tens of thousands of Louisiana citizens are still displaced and don't know if they can ever go home again. If you drive through what used to be their neighborhoods, you will see miles of abandoned houses, schools, hospitals, libraries, stores and restaurants. Ten-foot flood waters rendered the buildings useless. People who gave life to these neighborhoods are scat-

tered across the country, trying to decide if returning to rebuild is a viable option. Those who return know that the federal levee system that failed and caused the majority of damage is not substantially better than it was before the storm. This leaves a fragile community vulnerable to the next hurricane that surely will come.

People in southwest Louisiana also are suffering. Cameron Parish, which took the brunt of Rita, was devastated. The people who lived there were not wealthy; they were blue-collar workers, commercial fisherman, laborers – good, honest, hard-working people, the same type of people you'll meet in Raleigh, Richmond, Columbia or Charleston.

But in the midst of suffering, I saw humankind at its best, starting with my own people at the Department of Transportation and Development. Our ferry boats crossed the Mississippi River to rescue thousands who were stranded without food and water. Engineers who lost everything in the floods rolled up their sleeves and built a road from rubble to bring in equipment to fix the levee breaches. Our design teams worked around the clock to develop plans to fix the damaged 5-mile-long



See BITS, page 14

ON THE ROAD WITH BRADBERRY

ABBREVIATED CALENDAR

April		9	Acadiana delegation meeting; Dutch minister of trade meeting with the governor
11	Millennium Port Authority		
17	Governor's meeting with agency heads	11	Audubon Bridge groundbreaking ceremony
18	Jefferson Parish luncheon		
21	4th Annual Coastal Mayor's Conference	16	Hurricane tabletop exercise
27	Huey P. Long groundbreaking ceremony	25	Louisiana Planning Council Conference
May		June	
1	LAMA Aviation Meeting	6-7	Washington D.C. for Corps briefing
2	Northern Exposure	12	Ouachita Bridge groundbreaking ceremony
4-8	AASHTO Spring Meeting		

SECRETARY
Johnny B. Bradberry

DEPUTY SECRETARY
Cedric Grant

COMMUTER LINES STAFF
Mark Lambert
Dustin Annison
Peggy Bueche
Sherry Dupre
Lindsay Ruiz de Chavez
Brendan Rush



Spotlight on Customer Service

Praising your way to team success

by Peggy Bueche
Customer Service Center Manager

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." ~Margaret Mead~

U.S. Labor Department statistics indicate that 46 percent of employees who quit their jobs last year did so because they felt U-N-A-P-P-R-E-C-I-A-T-E-D!

Before the labor department's survey, employers thought workers most wanted good wages, job security and promotions. Sure, those are all nice, but No. 1 on the employee's list was appreciation, closely followed by feeling included on things – communication of what was happening in the organization.

All employees want to be recognized for work that they believe they did well – or at least tried to do well. Recognition or encouragement promotes satisfaction and high self-esteem among co-workers.

Some large corporations are beginning to understand the value of praise, because studies show that what gets rewarded gets done and gets done right.

Over the years I've heard my fellow employees (and myself) grumble that they're not listened to, have no room to grow, are treated like they don't matter and numerous other complaints. Since morale on the job matters, here are some things we can do:

- Volunteer to be on one of the Change Management teams.
- Treat fellow employees with dignity and respect – see the best in them.
- Let a co-worker know when their work or some aspect of it, however minor, has improved. Give lots of encouragement – you'll be amazed at the effects.
- Value every customer.

In this issue, the Customer Service Center is instituting a new peer-to-peer recognition program called the A-B-C-D "Above the Call of Duty" award. This award focuses on one of DOTD's values: people, excellence, leadership, public service and accountability.

The Customer Service Center invites employees to nominate a unit or team that has performed in an exceptional manner to be featured in "Commuter Lines."



The first recipients are the members of the Engineering Invoice Unit in Consultant Contract Services (Section 80) for their attention to excellence: **(pictured from left) Diane Chastain, Kitty David and Sylvia Bryer** are responsible for payments of all engineering invoices for Consultant Services. They process approximately 1,600 invoices per year. Recently, with the vision of Diane Chastain and the programming talents of Jason Dunlap, this team developed the Engineering Consultant Tracking System (ECTS), which allows invoices to be processed electronically. This process has increased the accuracy and timeliness of the invoices; it also allows the team to run valuable reports.

Congratulations Diane, Kitty and Sylvia!

For more information regarding excellence in customer service, or to nominate a team, unit or section, visit the DOTD Customer Service Intranet site or contact Peggy Bueche at PeggyBueche@dotd.la.gov.

Emergency evacuation guides now available

Gov. Blanco urges residents to be prepared, leave early

Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco kicked off the 2006 southeast emergency evacuation guide distribution May 15 at the State Police Troop B building in Kenner.

“Last year, 1.3 million residents followed this map and safely evacuated before Hurricane Katrina made landfall,” Gov. Blanco said. “That success was due to the cooperation of our citizens and a well-developed plan that worked. I encourage all residents to pick up their map now and be prepared for hurricane season. It’s important that everyone stays on the ready should another hurricane head this way.”

The 2006 version of the plan contains some updated safety and contact information. But the evacuation map and contraflow plan have remained the same. People who have the 2005 version can still use the map portion for planning purposes.

In addition, Gov. Blanco kicked off the distribution of the new southwest emergency evacuation guide May 26 at two news conferences: one at State Police Troop I in Lafayette and one at State Police Troop D in Lake Charles.

“Do not gamble with your safety,” Gov. Blanco said. “We learned important lessons from the Hurricane Rita evacuation, and we used those lessons to develop a new plan.”

The state plan, developed by DOTD and Louisiana State Police, would be activated in the event of a western strike, as in Hurricane Rita, and involves two points of contraflow, or reversed lanes

of traffic, on the interstate system. All traffic on both sides of Interstate 10 from the east end of the I-210 loop to U.S. 165 will be directed east, and all traffic on both sides of Interstate 49 from I-10 to the town of Washington will be directed north. Contraflow

operations would be triggered when local officials call for mandatory evacuations in Lake Charles and Lafayette, approximately 30-40 hours before tropical storm force winds are predicted to hit Louisiana’s coastline.

Blanco said that to use the guides properly, every family should develop its own personal evacuation plan.

“Residents should decide where to go, educate themselves thoroughly about the plan and then write down a personal evacuation plan.

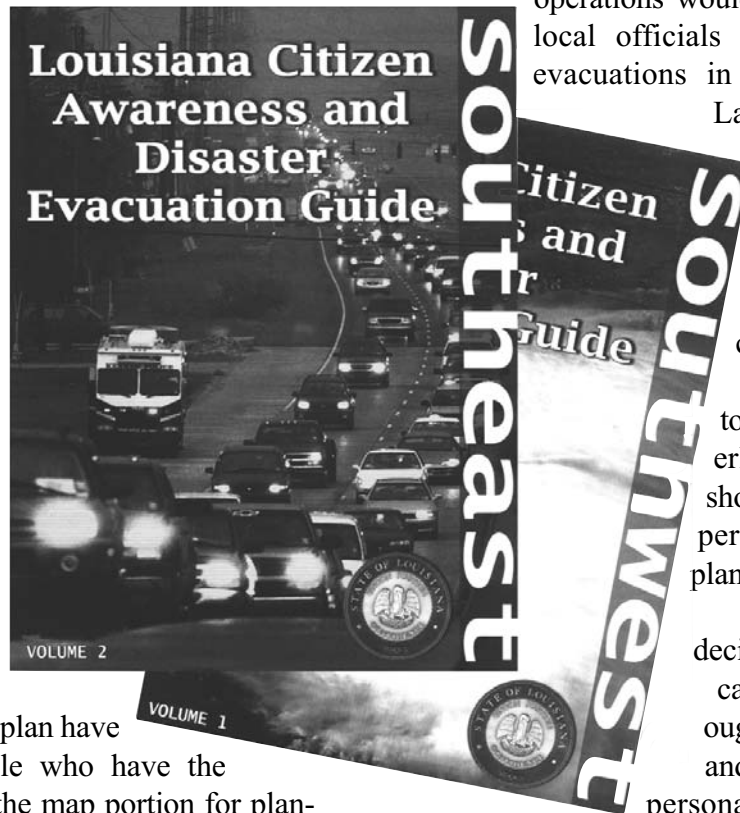
Make a list of all your travel needs now and post it where you can easily find it,” Gov. Blanco added.

Gov. Blanco also said residents should be prepared to face traffic delays during an evacuation. It is impossible for Louisiana’s road structure to handle a full-scale evacuation without motorists’ experiencing delays.

“The best advice is to leave early,” the governor said.

The guide is available at dozens of locations, including Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe’s, libraries and post offices.

Residents can access the contraflow maps on DOTD’s Web site at www.dotd.louisiana.gov/maps.





From left, the "Doo-Wop Divas," Stephanie Ortis, Joyce Rodrigue, Peggy Bueche and Grace Chatman, sing backup for Gary Lecoq, who plays with the DOTD band.

Employee Recognition Day

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of many DOTD staffers, employees were able to "pass a good time" during "State Employee Recognition Day," held May 3. The event featured free jambalaya lunches, live music and many door prizes.

Jambalaya chefs Kirt Clement, Richard Savoie, Juba Diez, Tommy Rabalais, Ranzy Montet, Barry Lacy and Brian Parsons cooked enough food to feed all the employees and then

some; the department took the leftovers to the Bishop Ott Shelter.

The DOTD band was made up of David Smith, Chad Winchester, Mark Edmonson, Jeff David and lead singer Gary LeCoq.

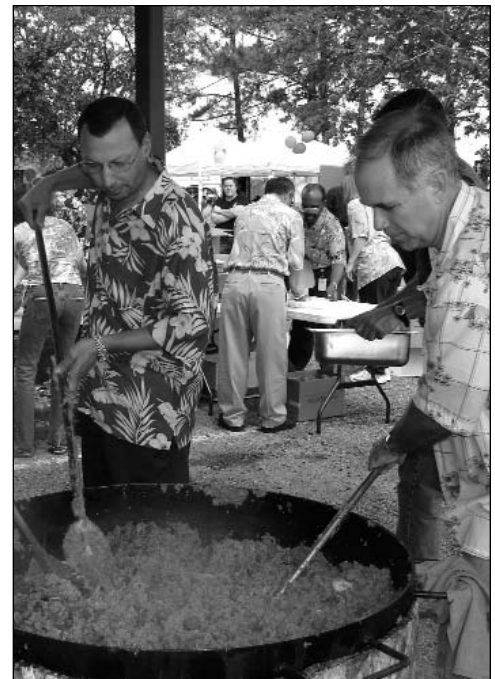
The event was organized by a committee made of Stephanie Ortis, Peggy Bueche, Sue Blanchard, Lisa Holmes, Peggy Jo Paine, Joyce Rodrigue, Peggy Brandes, Brad Brandt, Shawanna Blaze, Charles Templeton, Kevin Reed and Darrell Johnson.



Secretary Bradberry plays air guitar for the DOTD band.



[Far right] Secretary Bradberry helps Richard Savoie cook jambalaya. [Right] Employees show off their line-dancing talents.



DOTD executive Blaise Carriere leaves legacy



Blaise Carriere

Blaise Carriere, special projects assistant and former deputy secretary at DOTD, died March 29. He was 67.

Carriere started and ended his career working at what is now DOTD – with a wealth of private industry experience in between.

Secretary Bradberry said, “Blaise will be remembered for his status as a change agent and a challenger of the status quo. He also was known as a gentleman.

“He loved his work and brought a level of energy and com-

mitment that was second to none. The organization will sorely miss his talents and contributions. And I personally will miss him as a top-notch engineering professional as well as a good and honorable friend.”

Carriere was active in the community as a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, the Rotary Club, City Club of Baton Rouge and the Sherwood Forest Country Club.

He is survived by his wife of more than four decades, Marilyn deMahy Carriere; three children and nine grandchildren.

31 families participate in DOTD’s ‘Take Our Daughters/Sons to Work Day’ at headquarters

Editor’s note: Pictures from the event are available for viewing on the Customer Service Center’s Intranet site.

Some 31 families and about 36 children between ages 9-15 participated April 27 in the department’s “Take Our Daughters/Sons to Work Day” at headquarters.

Stephanie Ortis, an event coordinator, said evaluations indicated that the majority of participants enjoyed themselves and would recommend it to their friends.

In addition to four tours from which each child could select – including safety (Motorist Assistance Patrol, CPR and safety tips, and an Intelligent Transportation demonstration), the Sign Shop and the Traffic Center – the entire group took an afternoon tour of the governor’s mansion.

Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry

gave opening remarks after registration and a light breakfast. Ortis and event coordinator Ranzy Montet starred in “The Interview,” a skit on how NOT to act in an interview, after a hot-dog lunch and just prior to the awarding of door prizes.

All the participants at the afternoon session received door prizes, including hard hats, funny false teeth, bubbles, Silly Putty, DOTD bags, Frisbees, glow jars, wheel toys, rockets and an AM-FM radio.

A special thanks to all the members of the committee who planned and executed this event. In addition to Ortis and Montet, the members included: Sue Blanchard, Shawanna Blaze, Peggy C. Brandes, Peggy Bueche, Eric Burgess, Kathy Devall, Remy Graves, Priscilla Hall, Tiffani Hawkins, Darrel Johnson, Rita Leggett, Sarah Ragona, Joyce Rodrigue, Karla Schiro and Patrick Wollerson.



From left, Erik Risdal, grandson of John Howard; LaShawn Mills, daughter of Tina Hill; Kristin Smith, daughter of Pamela Walters; and Ryan Hutto, son of Rusty Hutto participated in District 05’s “Take Our Daughters/Sons to Work Day.”



From left, Ranzy Montet (left) talks with Nathan Zachery Ward, his father Frank Ward (right) of IT and David Ringuette of IT during headquarters’ “Take Our Daughters/Sons to Work Day.”

NEWS BRIEFS



[Left] At the National Subcommittee on Design meeting held in Orlando June 13-16, awards were given to two Subcommittee on Design members from Region 2, which consists of 12 states and Puerto Rico. The members receiving the awards were Kent Israel from Louisiana and John Pickering from Mississippi. Kent's award was for outstanding achievement in the field of highway and transportation design. He served on both the subcommittee and technical committee on Roadside Safety.

Because Kent had retired just prior to receiving the award, a brief ceremony was held on the sixth floor July 6. DOTD Chief Engineer Bill Temple presented the award.



[Left] DOTD headquarters held its employee recognition program March 23. At the ceremony, DOTD undersecretary Michael Bridges (right), presented Frederick Cifreo (left) and John Erwin with a 35-Year Service Award. Reta McFarland (not pictured) also received the award.



[Above] Gordon Nelson, DOTD Secretary of Operations, takes customer service seriously. He recently changed a flat tire for a stranded motorist in DOTD's headquarters parking lot.



[Above] Secretary Bradberry (second from left) speaks with DOTD employees (from left) Jimmy Densmore, Ronald Wilkinson, David Murrell, Bobby Lazos and Mike Lawson before the Ouachita Bridge groundbreaking ceremony in Sterlington.



[Left] This year's Work Zone Awareness Week was held April 3-9.

Activities included a cone memorial, the airing of a Louisiana State Police public service announcement and a Work-Zone Safety Day event at the Slidell Welcome Center.



DOTD's Customer Service Center implemented its first public outreach program on the Airline Highway Widening project in May. The aim of the pilot program is to notify business owners and interested parties located along and near the project of upcoming road closures, driveway closures, signal changes, etc., which may affect business. So far, the center has received all positive feedback on the program. Another public outreach program will soon start for the Perkins Road widening project.



First phase of Huey P. Long project starts

DOTD awards Phase II to Boh Bros. Construction Co.

The TIMED office hosted a groundbreaking ceremony April 27 to celebrate the start of the Huey P. Long Bridge widening project.

Phase I construction began April 2006 and will include widening of the main supports. This phase of construction, which is being constructed by Massman Construction Co., is not expected to impact traffic. The majority of this work will be performed from beneath the bridge.

Phase II is scheduled to begin summer 2006 and will include railroad modifications of select railroad supports to facilitate new east bank and west bank bridge approaches. Traffic impacts are not anticipated during the first two phases of the Huey P. Long Bridge widening project as the work is scheduled to be performed from the water or levee area.

The two remaining phases will include traffic impacts during construction, starting summer 2007. The main bridge widening (Phase III) is expected to be let late 2006 and the new approaches construction (Phase IV) is expected to be let mid 2007. The entire project is scheduled to be complete by December 2011.

The completed Huey P. Long Bridge widening project will include three 11-foot lanes in each direction, along with new inside and outside shoulders across the bridge. The project also includes the construction of new roadway approaches that will provide signalized intersections at Bridge City Avenue and Jefferson Highway.

DOTD recently announced the award of the contract for Phase II of the Huey P. Long Widening Project over the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish. Boh Bros. Construction Co. of New Orleans was awarded the contract for the railroad modifications with a bid of \$12.1 million – the lowest of five bids. The DOTD post-Katrina engineer's estimate was \$17.3 million.

The TIMED Public Outreach Department has established a Huey P. Long Bridge widening public outreach office to serve as a central location for the community to receive up-to-date information on the project's progress. The office, which opened to the public April 11, is located in the Jefferson Business Center 1, located in Suite 135 on 520 Elmwood Park Blvd. in New Orleans. Designated office hours are every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hours will be expanded as the project progresses.

In addition to visiting the office, the public can get information by visiting www.hueypbridge.com,

contacting the public outreach office at (504)731-4200, toll-free at (866) 846-3352 or by e-mailing hueypbridgeinfo@latimedmgrs.com.

Construction begins on new Mississippi River Bridge

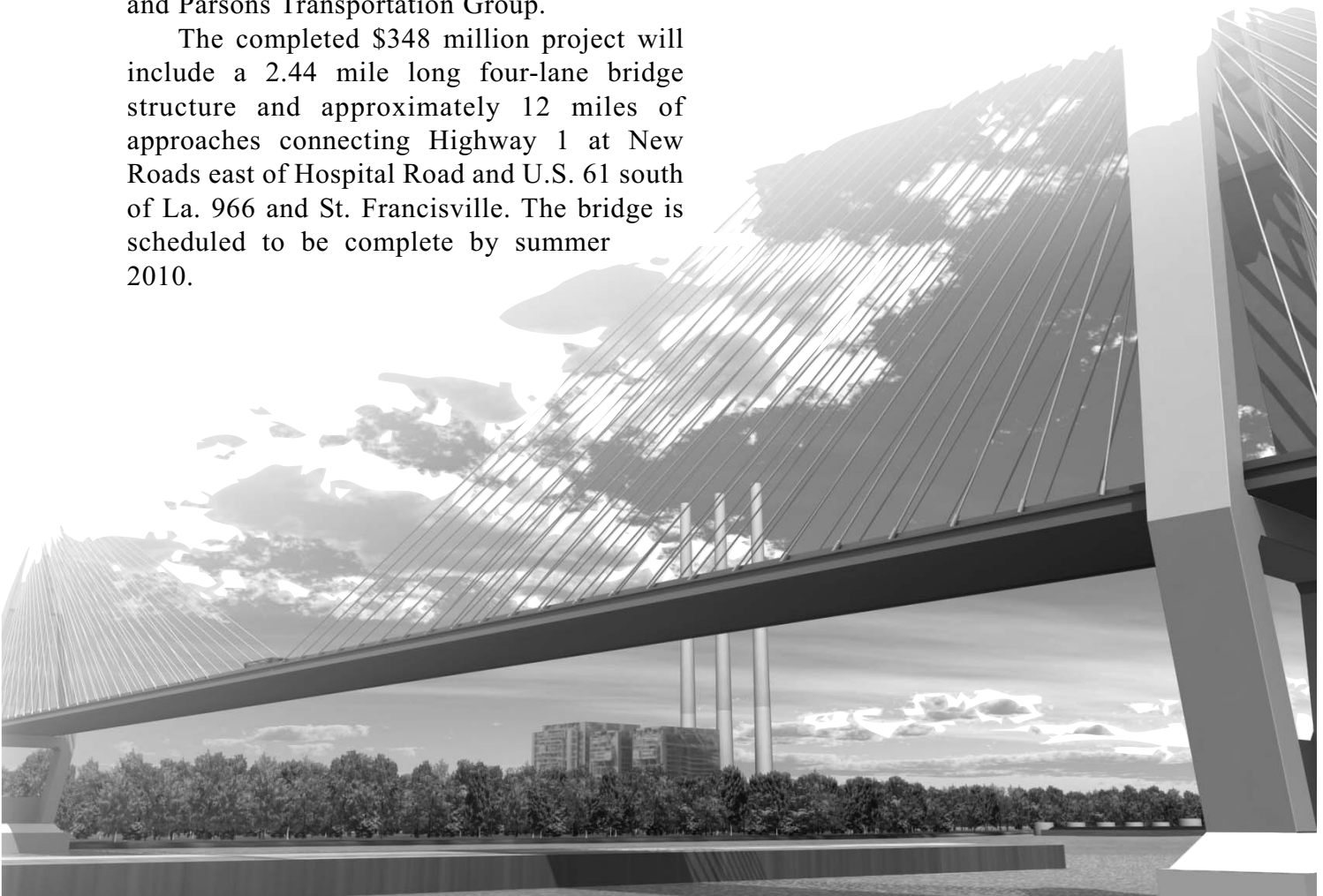
Construction of the new Mississippi River Bridge between New Roads and St. Francisville got a ceremonial kickoff May 11. The public ceremony was held on the levee at Big Cajun II in NewRoads.

The proposed bridge, officially named the John James Audubon Bridge, will be the longest cable-stayed bridge in North America with a main-span length of 1,583 feet. This is DOTD's first design-build project. The new bridge is being constructed by Audubon Bridge Constructors—a joint venture of Flatiron Constructors, Granite Construction and Parsons Transportation Group.

The completed \$348 million project will include a 2.44 mile long four-lane bridge structure and approximately 12 miles of approaches connecting Highway 1 at New Roads east of Hospital Road and U.S. 61 south of La. 966 and St. Francisville. The bridge is scheduled to be complete by summer 2010.

The TIMED Public Outreach Department has established a public outreach office for the new John James Audubon Bridge project to serve as the chief location for information regarding the Audubon Bridge project. The office, opened to the public May 23, is located in Suite 227 of the Julien Poydras Building at 500 West Main Street in downtown New Roads. Designated office hours are every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to visiting the office, the public can get information by calling (225) 638-6094 or (866) 846-3352; visiting www.audubonbridge.com; or e-mailing audubonbridgeinfo@latimedmgrs.com.



QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

(QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 2005)

Headquarters

Employee of the Quarter

Tina Milano

Manager of the Quarter

Robin Romeo

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Section 30: Edwin D. Barber,
Stanley L. Crain, Ronald Gerald,
Keith McDermitt, James C.
Rawls, Chadwyck Thomas and
Cole Thomas

District 02

Employee of the Quarter

Nancy Atkins

Manager of the Quarter

Robert Wegener

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

None

District 03

Employee of the Quarter

Joy LeBlanc

Manager of the Quarter

Marcia Granger

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Alzada Harrington and Deborah
LeBlanc

District 04

Employee of the Quarter

Mack Mayweather

Manager of the Quarter

Michael Martin

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Ronald Branham, Jesse Camp,
Robert Campbell, Paul Collucci,
Michael Graf, William Glenn
Guffey, Junius John Haun, Terry
Hutchinson, Dale Lilley, Steve

Matthews, James Mester, James
Pixley, Sim Roberson, Mona
Smith, Joel Stevens and Timothy
Wiggins

District 05

Employee of the Quarter

Don Smith

Manager of the Quarter

Mike McMellon

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Paul Allen, Reginald Ausberry,
Eric Broadway, Kathleen Burnett,
Michael Cowart, Jerry Davis,
Jimmy Garner, Roger Gibson,
Joe Gray, Lennard Harrell, Lee
Henderson, William Jones,
Lamon Lawson and Terry Webb

District 07

Employee of the Quarter

David Morgan

Manager of the Quarter

Ronnie Dupont

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Christine Boudreaux, James
Boudreaux, Paul Preston
Boudreaux, Janice Broussard,
Thomas Granger, Paul Holland,
Billy Labove, Troy Miller, Lana
Nunez, Yvette Richard, Joseph
Trahan and Susan Wolfe

District 08

Employee of the Quarter

Gary G. Burnaman

Manager of the Quarter

Emanuel P. Lemoine

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Grady C. Cross and Michael
Wilkinson

District 58

Employee of the Quarter

Michael Riley

Manager of the Quarter

Ken Mason

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Isaac Adams, Philip Andrews,
Perry Aplin, Lank Bass, Josh
Davis, John Evans, Terry
Maxwell, Brad McCartney,
Ronnie Poole, Justin Reeves,
Greg Richardson, Larry Tucker
and Mike Walters

District 61

Employee of the Quarter

Michael Ng

Manager of the Quarter

Aaron Elisar

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

None

District 62

Employee of the Quarter

Joanne Addison

Manager of the Quarter

None

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

None

CCCD

Employee of the Quarter

Bahir Abdul-Aleem

Manager of the Quarter

None

Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Stacie Blackmon, Shannon
Boudoin, Peggy Bourgeois,
Tamicia Lafrance and Paulene
Taylor

ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

(YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2005)

Headquarters

Employee of the Year

Kirk M. Zeringue

Manager of the Year

James Phil Jones

Best Team Effort of the Year

Section 30: James C. Rawls, Keith McDermitt, Stanley L. Crain, Ronald Gerald, Chadwyck Thomas, Edwin D. Barber and Cole Thomas.

Secretary's Award of Excellence

Peggy Bueche

District 02

Employee of the Year

Nancy Atkins

Manager of the Year

Robert Wegener

Best Team Effort of the Year

None

District 03

Employee of the Year

Tance Fremin

Manager of the Year

Margaret Breaux

Best Team Effort of the Year

Alzada Harrington and Deborah LeBlanc

District 04

Employee of the Year

Lori Whatley

Manager of the Year

Robert "Bobby" Wheeler

Best Team Effort of the Year

None

District 05

Employee of the Year

Jeremy Ratcliff

Manager of the Year

David Porter

Best Team Effort of the Year

Eugene Gilbert, Tommy James, Shelby McMillan, Jesse Reese, Jennifer Soelter and Shelby Templeton

District 07

Employee of the Year - Delayed

Manager of the Year - Delayed

Best Team Effort of the Year - Delayed

District 08

Employee of the Year

Craig J. Gauthier

Manager of the Year

None

Best Team Effort of the Year

None

District 58

Employee of the Year

Raymond Stanley

Manager of the Year

None

Best Team Effort of the Year

Roderick Bingham, Vernell Finley, Dwayne Gatlin, Ed Leonard and Eric Price

District 61

Employee of the Year

Elizabeth Bogan

Manager of the Year

Chad Vosburg

Best Team Effort of the Year

Glenda Anderson, Ted Aucoin, Ronnie Carter, Michael Connors, Sarah Edel, Lucy Kimbeng, Nick Rabalais, Walid Shahla and Warren Taylor

District 62

Employee of the Year

Foster L. Roberts

Manager of the Year

None

Best Team Effort of the Year

None

CCCD

Employee of the Year

Steven Bunch

Manager of the Year

Peter Maggione

Best Team Effort of the Year

Larry Anderson, Theron Armstrong, Tyrone Barthelemy, Ronald Bonnette, Audrey Boskent, Steven Bunch, David Butler, Sharon Davis, Sherry Ducote, Miguel Dukes, Christopher Fletcher, Kenneth Gifford, Guy Gonzales, Johnson Hale, Michael Helmstetter, David Kramer, Troy Magallanes, Peter Maggione, Denise McMahon, Ralph Palmer, Christopher Pesson, Maia Prosper, Terry Rutherford, Michael Schmitt, Ervin Tate, Mitchell Troescher, William Wright and Gary Yacher

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PERSONNEL UPDATES

(MARCH 2006-MAY 2006)

NEW HIRES

DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Alonga Lashay Barthelemy, Lynette H. Breaux, Charles Briley Jr., Michelle A. Cade, Joseph Dixon, David James Harris, Donald Ray Harris, Lakisha J. Henry, Eddie Joseph Jeansonne, Reginald Lewis, Andrea Lynette Mills, Phi Dinh Phan, Anthony Reynolds, Sharon Constantine Terrebonne, Craig H. Venable and Kimberly M. Young

DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

None

DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Larry S. Beeson, Kirt P. Greenhouse, Robert W. Kent, Cornell Lapone Murphy and Carl L. Nelson

DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Joshua R. Beach, David Clark, Daniel P. Evans, Matthew Dale Gunther, James M. Hawkins, Stephanie A. Henderson, Matthew E. Jantz, Maxie Keith Palmertree, David Gregory Ratcliff, Clinton Reynolds and Michael Roy Walsworth

DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

None

DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Timothy L. Bennett, Rudy A. Bond Sr., Christopher Darnell Boyd and Arnold Johnson

DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Ulysses Finister

DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Beau James Blanchard, Dwight Lyle Fox, Judy Lynn Gomez, Beau Hunter Istre, Joe Louis Johnson,

Devin Lee Kelley, Lucy Ayuk Kimbeng, Nathan Paul Lemoine, Paul Michael Matherne, George Timothy McDaniel, Gary M. O’Neal, Michael R. Osborne, Andrew J. Pirie, Oscar F. Soileau and Royal Wesley

DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Thomas R. Bardwell, Joe Ernest Davis Jr., Charles Doughty, Yale B. Lappin, Dwayne P. Maples, James Arlie O’Bryant, Dennis Cozell Pounds, Michael A. Timmons Jr. and Lora E. Wall

HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Miquel Nicole Anderson, Sharon A. Bouie, Kerry Leigh Boutte, Brandy Pullins Boyd, Ronald John Broadbent, Debra Cole Celestine, Berlinda Tamiko Charles, Leslie Wicker Copelin, Tina Crandle, Erica Hendricks Darville, Hope Christine Davis, Mark Travis Ellender, Rosemary Evans, Alana Marie Harris, Ananda Herath, Kevin Kelly, Larisa Little, Michael C. Moore, Clarence Anthony Moritz Jr., Dena Robateau, Charlene Robertson, Trachel C. Robertson, Sandra D. Roe, Latrisha M. Samuels, Elizabeth Campbell Scallan, Shawanda Lee Smith, Robin Taylor, Donald T. Thomas Jr., Martha Thomas, Rhea Monutez Victorian, Shanetra Chantelle Washington and Jannette A. White

PROMOTIONS

DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Michael John Duplantis, Robert R. Hertle, Leonard Johnson and Thomas A. Kinler

DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Lydia Elizabeth Greenough, John G. Plouet Jr. and Kenneth James

Trahan

DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Charles L. Crawford, Sammy Charles Douse, Albert Todd Moreau, Jacklon D. Stiles and James C. White Jr.

DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

James Cary Gentry and Thomas Marshall Hill

DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Clint J. Fontenot and Fred Wayne Trahan

DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Justin W. Newton and Jeremy S. Rachal

DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

None

DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Michael D. Bennett, Kyle Joseph Elisar and Phillip R. Rankin

DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Jeremy B. Blalock, Royal Freeman, Larry W. Sharp Jr., Connie L. Standige and Zakery Shane Watson

HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Stella B. Bossom, Brian D. Buckel, Luanna F. Cambas, Hope Christine Davis, Haley M. Forsyth, Sue Ellen Hopper, James P. Jones, Eric Randall Lanier, Michael Wade Lester, Shane A. Maddie, Leslie W. Mix, Mark J. Morvant, Christopher James Nickel, Harold R. Paul, Vincent G. Russo Jr., Debra Schexnaydre, Grady Burl Sevario, David S. Smith and John Charles Wells

See PERSONNEL, page 13

PERSONNEL (from page 12)

RETIREMENTS

DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Thomas L. Payment, Amelia B. Sanchez and William J. Stewart

DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Henry Demette and Cecil James Hebert

DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Ronnie T. Bolton and Clydell J. Greer

DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Danny E. Jordan

DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Joseph L. Lafleur and Ola Marie Mire

DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Denise J. Boren, William C. Bridges, Wayne L. Dean, Dwight P. Normand and Johnnie Bert Pace Jr.

DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Larry J. Andrews, John R. Day, Archie Ezell Jr., John E. Meredith and Will L. Wiley Jr.

DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Glenda D. Anderson, Runyon C. Richard and Willard E. Young

DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Donald Ard, Wendell D. Smith and Charles L. Trobona

HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Louis Alexander, Kenneth J. Beard, Terry L. Cormier, Robert T. Cutting, Pamela Gail Dantin, William C. Ellis, Karl Junius Finch, William F. Gardner, Kenneth W. Kilian, Russell J. Milligan Sr., J.P. Perilloux III, Robert J. Piscioti, Bruce A. Ramsey, Gerard C. Tarantino, Greta Thompson, Christine A. Webster, Chandler L. Wheat and Michael J. Williams Sr.

HR HOT TOPICS

RETIREMENT SYSTEM CHANGES AFFECT NEW HIRES:

The following important changes resulting from Act 75 of the 2005 Regular Legislative Session impact employees hired on or after July 1, 2006:

- Employee Contribution Rate changed from 7.5 percent to 8 percent.
- Average Compensation changed from 36 highest months to 60 highest months of successive employment.
- Eligibility for Retirement changed from 10 years at age 60, 25 years at age 55, or 30 years at any age, to 10 years at age 60 or thereafter.
- Disability Benefit Accrual changed from 2.5% accrual to 1.8 percent accrual. Benefit will be recalculated at age 60 upon application to the LASERS Board.
- There are no provisions for participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) or for retirement with an Initial Benefit Option (IBO).

Additional information may be obtained from LASERS' Web site: www.lasers.state.la.us or at (225) 922-0600 or (800) 256-3000.

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC (TS) PAY SCHEDULE

At its July pay hearing, the Civil Service Commission approved a 14-percent adjustment to the range maximums for jobs in the TS Pay Schedule, with a phased-in increase in range minimums by 6 percent over a three-year period. The proposal has been forwarded to the governor for consideration. Affected employees will receive no immediate increase in pay except those whose current pay rate is below the new minimum of the pay range.

HR STAFFING CHANGES

HR welcomes Beth Segura, HR analyst, who is assigned to the Employee Benefits/Relations Unit and serving in the areas of employee recognition, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Employee Assistance Program(EAP). Beth brings with her 10 years of experience in an HR setting. HR also welcomes Toby Comeaux, recent MPA graduate, who joined the staff as a management intern in the HR Compensation Unit to assist DOTD managers/employees with classification and pay issues.

ENGINEERING SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

DOTD has employed 25 junior- and senior-level engineering students to work full-time this summer in headquarters sections and district offices. This program, which began June 5 and ends August 18, provides college students with "real world" experiences in a civil engineering environment. The program will culminate with a send-off luncheon hosted by Secretary Bradberry.

DOTD honors Charles E. Dunbar award recipients with ceremony

DOTD hosted a ceremony March 24 to recognize DOTD's 2003 and 2005 recipients of the Charles E. Dunbar Jr. Career Services Award, which is sponsored by the Louisiana Civil Service League.

DOTD Undersecretary Michael Bridges recognized three honorees:

- Anthony M. Culp, DOTD aviation director (2005)
- James B. Frederick Jr., DOTD attorney supervisor (2005)
- Salvador F. Faldetta (now retired), former DOTD section head of financial services (2003)

Daniel E. Sullivan, executive vice president of the Louisiana Civil Service League, also made remarks during the event.

The program has recognized more than 600 classified public employees (including 33 DOTD employees) in Louisiana since its inception 47 years ago. Nominees are judged on their commitment to classified service, contributions



The 2005 honorees, Anthony M. Culp (left) and James B. Frederick Jr., received their plaques during a state luncheon on April 4 in New Orleans.



Dunbar Award recipient Anthony Culp (center), who recently retired, was also honored by the Senate, who drew up a resolution to honor his 10 years of service as aviation director for the state. He is shown here with Sen. Gerald Theunissen (left) and Sen. Noble Ellington.

toward work or workplace improvement, personal initiative and volunteer community service.

BITS (continued from page 2)

bridge on I-10, working with contractors to re-establish traffic in less than one month. In eight months, they delivered complete plans to build an entirely new bridge that is now under construction and represents the largest public works project in state history. I want to publicly thank these employees for rising to meet challenges no one should have to face. They are true public servants.

Lastly, I want to thank you for the kindness you and your citizens

have shown. You opened your hearts, wallets and homes to us. From Atlanta to Little Rock to Nashville, you proved to the rest of the country what we already knew about ourselves: We do share common values of goodwill that transcend our differences, whether we are Bulldogs, War Eagles, Rebels or Tigers.

Technology Transfer

The following became certified inspectors between March 1 and May 31:

ASPHALTIC CONCRETE PLANT

Vernon P. Rom	District 62
Brett S. Frazier	District 62
James H. Bickman	District 62

EMBANKMENT & BASE COURSE

Derek Carlin	District 08
Daniel T. Mayeux	District 62

PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE PAVING

James L. Mester	District 04
Jeremy Ratcliff	District 05
Greg Nappier	District 05
James C. Hilliard	District 05
Melissa H. Roan	District 05

STRUCTURAL CONCRETE

Travis Lovell	District 02
Charlie Rasbury	District 04
Kenneth W. Smelle	District 04
Josh Moore	District 05
Jonathan Catlett	District 61
Bryan Austin Fontenot	District 61
Marcus John Gueho	District 61
Chad Lee Roubique	District 61
Daniel T. Mayeu	District 62

ASPHALTIC CONCRETE PAVING

Francis Simon Jr.	District 02
Michael Keith Dupre	District 03
Gary LeBlanc	District 03
Joshua B. Payne	District 62

NUCLEAR DEVICE OPERATOR

Daniel Thomas Mayeux	District 62
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MAILBAG



Dear sirs:

The Ambulance District wants you to know how much we appreciate the hard work you did to eliminate the bothersome curb in front of our ambulances. A smoother surface will definitely make it less destructive on our medic unites. It was so hard to "jump that curb" — especially at night so close to that utility pole.

This should make it safer for oncoming traffic as well. you all did such a good job! It is so smooth. The workers were so nice - Steve [Green], Ronnie [Salley], and "Bull" [Robert Kent]. The other workers were great, too. I just don't know all their names!

Sincerely,

Jane Manning
DeSoto Parish EMS

Dear Mr. [Steve] Green and Mr. [Preston] Booker,

I apologize for my being so late in telling you how much we appreciate the beautiful work you did on the ditch adjacent to the terrace in the front area of Evergreen Cemetery. What a welcome change this ditch is.

You can't know the gratitude we feel in our hearts to know how your department was so prompt in helping a little country cemetery improve its beauty.

Thank you. We appreciate all your hard labor.

Harold and Myrtle Austin
Frierson

Dear Ms. Connie Standige,

Subsequent to my writing my letter to your department on Oct. 28, 2005, the area on Hwy. 21, fronting my property, was cleared.

In my opinion, your department, and everyone involved in the process, did a great job with the debris removal, notwithstanding the total confusion caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Yours truly,

Joseph F. Bishop Jr.
Garcia & Bishop, Attorneys at Law
Metairie, La.

Dear Mr. Ricky Moon,

I would like to commend you and your team on a job well done. Shujen [McMurray] and Shannon [Stephens] were awesome volunteers and team captains for our 2006 American Cancer Society Franklin Parish Relay for Life event. The money that was raised by your team helps us save even more lives and help even more cancer patients. Your team succeeded in placing first this year, raising a total of \$3,298.05.

I appreciate you allowing your employees the time at work to help us and encouraging their involvement. We could not do what we do without volunteers like you giving of your time and money. We are one step closer to a cure each day thanks to people like you!

Please know what an integral part you play in our mission. We appreciate your efforts and the part you played in the success of our event. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Committed to the fight,

Julie B. Smith

*American Cancer Society
Community Representative
Franklin Parish*

COMMUTER LINES

LA DOTD
Public Affairs
1201 Capitol Access Road
P.O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245



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DOTD employee's underwater photo used on stamp

DOTD contracts engineer Randal Sanders, who began taking photographs underwater nearly 30 years ago, has recently achieved an unusual recognition. A 1983 photo of a coral head he took while scuba diving in waters surrounding the Florida Keys has been used to create a U.S. postage stamp.

The stamp, which illustrates the longest reef in America, is one of 40 postage stamps in a commemorative series titled "Wonders of America." The series was released by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) on May 27, Sanders' 51st birthday.

Sanders earned his initial scuba certification in 1975 and began taking an underwater camera along soon after.

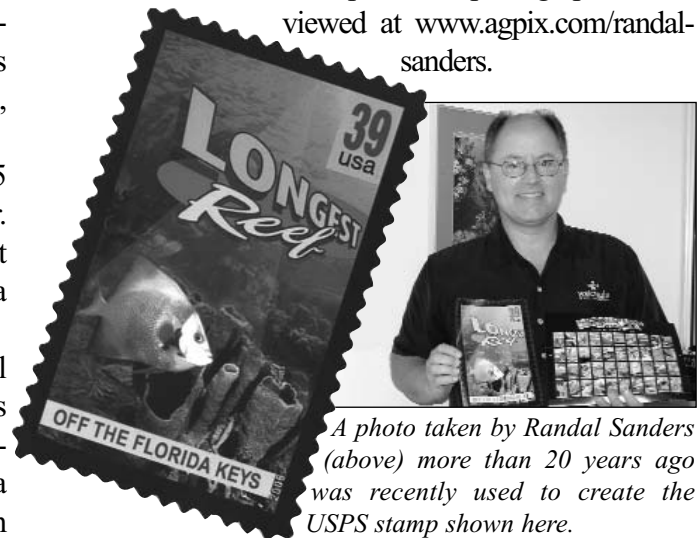
"I didn't even own a land camera," he said. "The first camera I bought was a Nikonos – a watertight camera produced by Nikon."

Since then, his skills have become so professional that his photographs have been published as illustrations and advertisements in a variety of books, magazines, calendars, videos, brochures, aquarium displays and now a postage stamp. He has been the subject of articles in

regional and national publications, and has received recognition in several national and international underwater photography contests.

Sanders has been scuba diving in various locations worldwide, including the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, Red Sea, Solomon Islands, Indonesia and several Caribbean locations. Examples of his photographs can be

viewed at www.agpix.com/randal-sanders.



A photo taken by Randal Sanders (above) more than 20 years ago was recently used to create the USPS stamp shown here.